Popularisation of silk industry.

238. **MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH** (*Nominated*) : With reference to the 250 acres of land in Vettampalli, Neduvangad taluk, reserved by them for the cultivation of mulberry trees and the popularisation of silk industry among the depressed classes, will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the steps taken by them to popularise the said industry among these people ;

(*b*) whether they are aware that the authorities in the Neduvangad taluk have, contrary to the intention of the Government, started proceedings against the depressed classes for encroachment, got them punished and evicted them from the lands handed over to them by the Government in blocks of five acres each for mulberry cultivation ; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that the major portion of these lands have, contrary to the intention of the Government, been sold in auction by the authorities of the said taluk in favour of other communities at such high rates of *tadivila* and *taravila* on the plea that the occupants have not been able to deposit the dues at these enhanced rates ?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) An extent of 133 acres and 68 cents of land comprised in Resurvey No. 2920, etc., of the Anad pakuthi was at first transferred to the Agricultural Department for assignment to the members of the depressed classes for mulberry cultivation. But, subsequently, as it was found that sericulture without an established silk industry in the State would not be successful, Government ordered that the lands already transferred to the Agricultural Department should be retransferred to the Revenue Department for assignment under the *Puduval Rules* and the question of assignment of lands to the members of the depressed classes for mulberry cultivation was dropped.

(*b*) In cases in which the occupations were found to be not *bona fide*, steps were taken under the rules by the Revenue Department for evicting the occupants and it is possible that among those who were evicted there might be members of the depressed classes. But an extent of nearly 24 acres has been assigned to 11 families of the depressed classes whose occupations were found to be *bona fide*.

(*c*) In cases where the parties failed to remit *taravila* and other dues, the parties were evicted under the Land Conservancy Regulation and further steps taken for the disposal in auction of the lands concerned in accordance with the rules on the subject.

Flood relief measures.

239. **MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are in receipt of the resolutions passed by a public meeting of the inhabitants of Alangad praying for remission of land tax and for grant of long-term agricultural loans as relief measures

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